

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORT IN THE U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 130070; (B) USNATO 3406

SUMMARY: KOREN PORPOSES TO GIVE UP IDEA OF KELLY CONSULTANCY
TO EXPLORE NATIS OFFICE IN U.S. AND TO PROCEED ALONG MORE MODEST
LINES IN TRYING TO INCREASE NATO INFORMATION EFFORT IN U.S.
END SUMMARY

1. PAA HAMILTON HAS FURTHER PURSUED SUBJECT OF REFTELS WITH NATIS
DIRECTOR KOREN. JOREN SAID HIS BASIC MOTIVATION THROUGHOUT HAS BEEN
TO RESPOND TO THE WISHES EXPRESSED IN THE DPC, BY THE RUOGROUP
CHAIRMAN IN HIS REPORT AND THE CONIO TO STEP UP NATO INFORMATION
EFFORTS IN THE U.S. HIS PROPOSAL IN REF (B) WAS INTENDED TO GET
THE BALL ROLLING AND TO INITIATE AN INQUIRY INTO THE BEST MEANS OF
INCREASING NATO INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE
POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP A NATO OFFICE THERE, ALL IN THE CLOSEST
POSSIBLE COORDINATION WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

2. SINCE SENDING US THE PROPOSAL OUTLINED IN REFTEL(B), KOREN
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UNDERLINES THE EXPLORATORY NATURE OF HIS PROPOSAL AND THAT JOINT
FINANCING OF A NATO FACILITY IN THE U.S. MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE.
IN THE INTEREST OF REALITY, TAKING PRESENT BUDGETARY SITUATION INTO
ACCOUNT, HE THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE DANGER OF THE
MATTER BEING SIDETRACKED BY THE ISSUE OF A NATO U.S. OFFICE.

FURTHER, IF HE WERE TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE PORTION OF THE PRESENT BUDGET ALLOTTED TO INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. BY SETTING UP AN OFFICE THERE AND BACKING IT UP WITH APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, THIS WOULD MEAN DIVERTING FUNDS FROM EXISTING PROGRAMS AND PROBABLY WOULD RESULT IN PROTESTS FROM SOME OR ALL OF THE NATO MEMBER NATIONS.

3. KOREN STILL IS VERY INTERESTED IN A STEP-UP OF NATO INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. BUT FEELS NOW THAT HE WILL HAVE TO PROCEED IN MORE MODEST WAYS.

4. HE BELIEVES NOW THAT THE NEW U.S. REGIONAL OFFICER, JOHN KIMBALL, CAN CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY SURVEY OF THE BEST MEANS OF INCREASING NATO INFORMATION EFFORTS IN THE U.S. KOREN NOW IS INCLINED TO PROCEED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: (1) TO TRY TO PROVIDE MORE TRAVEL FUNDS FOR KIMBALL; (2) TO MAKE A GRANT TO SOMEONE IN THE U.S. (POSSIBLY GILES KELLY OR BILL MESSNER OF THE CINCINNATI WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, WHO HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE ON NATO PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROJECTS IN THE U.S.), TO PROVIDE ON A PART-TIME BASIS SOME OF THE NEEDED ARMS AND LEGS IN THE U.S.; (3) TO CONSIDER GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROJECT; (4) TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE EXPENDITURES IN THE U.S. UNDER THE PRESENT NATO PROGRAM TO SEE WHETHER THE BEST USE IS BEING MADE OF THESE FUNDS; (5) TO TRY TO SCRAPE TOGETHER SOME MODEST ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

5. IN SUM, BECAUSE OF HIS APPRAISAL OF THE BUDGETARY REALITIES, KOREN NOW HAS DROPPED THE IDEA OF THE KELLY CONSULTANCY TO EXPLORE THE SETTING UP OF A NATIS OFFICE IN THE U.S.

6. COMMENT: ASSUMING THERE IS NO PROHIBITION UNDER U.S. LAW TO SPENDING NATO FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE MISSION CAN SEE MERIT IN SETTING UP A NATO OFFICE IN THE U.S., UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS: (1) THAT THE OFFICE COULD BE FUNDED AT A SUFFICIENT LEVEL, INCLUDING ADEQUATE TRAVEL AND REPRESENTATION FUNDS; (2) THAT THERE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT PROGRAM FUNDS BACKING IT UP SO THAT THERE WOULD BE A STEP-UP IN THE NUMBER OF U.S.

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GROUPS COMING TO NATO AND THE NUMBER OF NATO SPEAKERS AND GROUPS GOING TO THE U.S. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT KOREN'S APPRAISAL OF THE BUDGETARY SITUATION IS REALISTIC AND THAT THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A NATIS OFFICE IN THE U.S. IS OUT OF THE QUESTION UNDER CURRENT AND FORESEEABLE BUDGETARY CIRCUMSTANCES. THEREFORE, WE THINK THE WAY HE NOW WISHES TO APPROACH THE PROBLEM MAKES SENSE, IF IT IS APPROPRIATE UNDER U.S. LAW. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION IN PARAGRAPH SIX OF REFTTEL (A), THE ONLY NATIS OFFICE OUTSIDE BRUSSELS NOW IS IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND.
RUMSFELD

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